

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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70

ACTION PM-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 ACDA-19 AEC-11 AF-10

ARA-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NASA-04

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OIC-04 PA-03 PRS-01 RSC-01

GAC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 MBFR-03 USIA-12 SAJ-01 NSF-04

SCEM-02 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 RSR-01 /246 W

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R 051715 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0320

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04045

E. O. 11652: XGDS1

TAGS: PARM, FR, CH

SUBJECT: FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

REF: PARIS 8823

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE TIMES OF MARCH 23 CARRIED CRITICAL EDITORIAL ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN WHICH IT SUGGESTED THAT MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO INDUCE FRENCH TO STOP TESTING WAS TO REMOVE NEED FOR SUCH TESTS. THERE ARE TWO WAYS IN WHICH FRENCH NEEDS COULD BE MET, TIMES ASSERTS. ONE WOULD BE FOR PRESIDENT NIXON TO ALLOW THE RELEASE OF NUCLEAR INFORMATION TO THE FRENCH IN THE SAME WAY THAT IT HAS BEEN DIVULGED TO UK. THE OTHER IS FOR THE US TO GRANT FRANCE ACCESS TO UNDERGROUND TEST FACILITIES

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IN NEVADA. TIMES ACKNOWLEDGES THAT EITHER SOLUTION WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE, BUT THINKS THAT " AN ATTEMPT TO BRING US AND FRANCE TOGETHER NOW IN ORDER TO PREVENT THIS ANNUAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN FRANCE, HER ENVIRONMENT AND HER FRIENDS" WOULD BE JUSTIFIED.

2. TIMES EDITORIAL ECHOES LINE TAKEN MARCH 21 IN HOUSE OF COMMONS BY DAVID OWEN, MINISTER FOR THE NAVY IN THE LAST LABOR GOVT, WHO ASKED THE FOREIGN SECRETARY WHETHER HE DID NOT AGREE THAT THE KEY TO THIS MATTER IS THAT FRANCE SHOULD HAVE FACILITIES FOR UNDERGROUND TESTING. OWEN ALSO ASKED WHETHER FOREIGN SECRETARY WOULD USE HIS GOOD OFFICES TO ENSURE THAT THE FRENCH HAVE ACCESS TO AT LEAST THE TECHNOLOGY. THEN, HE ASSERTED, THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN THE PARTIAL TEST BAN TREATY AND CEASE TO POLLUTE THE ATMOSPHERE. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY REPLIED THAT " IF THE FRENCH WERE TO MAKE ANY APPROACHES TO US, WE WOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THIS MATTER OR ANY OTHER. THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO SO FAR." EARLIER IN THE DISCUSSION, HOME TURNED ASIDE A DEMAND OF THE LABOR LEFT THAT HMG MAKE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS TO THE FRENCH GOVT, " AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE DONE". HE RESPONDED THAT HE HAD REPEATEDLY MADE CLEAR TO THE FRENCH GOVT WHAT THE BRITISH VIEW IS, NAMELY THAT THE TEST BAN TREATY SHOULD BE ADHERED TO. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. SUMMERHAYES, HEAD, FCO'S ARMS CONTROL DEPT, MADE PARTICULAR POINT OF DRAWING FOREGOING TO OUR ATTENTION. HE STRESSED THAT RESPONSE HOME HAD MADE TO OWEN MEANT NOTHING MORE THAN THAT. BRITISH WOULD " CONSIDER" ANY FRENCH APPROACH ( BRITISH CANNOT CONCEIVE OF FRENCH MAKING ONE), BUT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT TAKE ANYTHING BUT MOST BLAND POSITION ON FRENCH TESTS GENERALLY OR ON POSSIBILITY OF UK APPROACH TO US TO ALLOW FRENCH ACCESS TO US TEST TECHNOLOGY. SUMMERHAYES SAID HE EXPECTED THAT AS TIME FOR FRENCH TESTS GOT NEARER, LABOR WOULD PRESS HMG HARDER TO APPROACH US ABOUT LETTING FRENCH FRENCH. HE INDICATED THAT GOVT HAD NO ANXIETY ABOUT ITS ABILITY TO CONTAIN ANY LABOR IMPORTUNING.

SOHM

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

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**TAGS:** PARM, CH, FR  
**To:** CANBERRA  
GENEVA  
NATO BRUSSELS  
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SECSTATE WASHDC  
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